

**Downtown Revitalization  
Friends Advisory Team  
Meeting Summary ~ April 14, 2009**

More than 80 people attended the first Downtown Revitalization Association Advisory Team meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the dialog about our vision for downtown and to determine the direction we need to get there and how.

Mayor Carl Brewer welcomed the group and said there is a lot of momentum right now that we need to build upon.

Jeff Fluhr presented information on the Case for Downtown, outlining what's going on now and revitalization benefits:

(<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/newsletter/041409%20FOD%20Advisory%20Team%20Notes.pdf> )

- We have an opportunity to see some great things happen.
- Cities across the country are having this same conversation.
- Downtown is the community's identity.
- Wichita has been doing a lot of things right over the years.
  - 1989 RTKL plan
  - 1999 River Corridor plan
  - 2007 Arena Neighborhood plan
- The foundation has been laid for us to build upon.
- We can learn from other communities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, Raleigh, Kansas City & Oklahoma City.
- This is a competitive environment.
- The goal is how to take a 20 year vision and make it happen in 10 years.

Co-Chair Charlie Claycomb invited everyone to share their ideas about Wichita's downtown. Themes from the discussion included:

- Outdoor entertainment facility on the river
- Permanent structure for use by the Farmers' Market
- Address parking
- Arts and arts district important
- Retail is important, including concentrated retail
- Residential is important and address affordability
- Attract young people
- Northern Flyer rail service to bring people into downtown
- Transportation and mass transit needs to be addressed and existing publicized
- Develop a pedestrian-friendly downtown
- Permanent housing for homeless
- City help in bringing buildings up to code
- Pro-active clean-up, including vandalism
- Local music community important

Charlie Claycomb mentioned next week there should be a blog on-line and invited everyone to add their thoughts. He also asked for a show of hands in support of a downtown plan. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of a plan.